



September 21, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions, and related issues (GN Docket No. 12-268; ET Docket No. 14-165; MB Docket No. 15-146; ET Docket No. 16-56)*

Dear Chairman Pai:

As governors, we recognize that technology is transforming every job, every company, and every industry. These unstoppable forces have the power to grow economies and improve the livelihood of citizens in every corner of our nation, urban and rural. Innovative approaches that foster private investment, resulting in lower costs and increased access for consumers, must be seized upon. Nowhere is this more important than affordable, accessible broadband internet access – the critical infrastructure of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Approximately 34 million of our nation's citizens lack access to quality broadband services, especially in underserved rural areas. Whether it's students trying to research a topic at home or entrepreneurs launching a business, the digital divide should not limit any citizen's ability to learn, innovate, or connect to the numerous advantages enabled by robust internet access.

We applaud and echo your belief that broadband should be available to every American who wants it. Consequently, we are writing to request that at least three white space channels in every U.S. market be reserved to better enable access to broadband internet. If approved, companies from across the private sector will be able to invest and deploy innovative white space technologies. Furthermore, we believe that concerns from all parties can be addressed in a way that allows this game-changing initiative to positively impact the lives of countless Americans.

Thank you for your consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further at your request.

Sincerely,



Governor Doug Burgum  
State of North Dakota



Governor Jay Inslee  
State of Washington



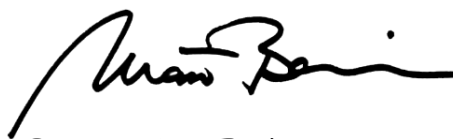
Governor Asa Hutchinson  
State of Arkansas



Governor John Hickenlooper  
State of Colorado



Governor Sam Brownback  
State of Kansas



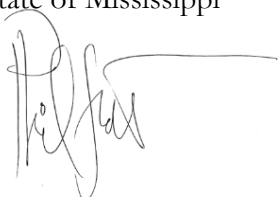
Governor Matt Bevin  
Commonwealth of Kentucky



Governor Phil Bryant  
State of Mississippi



Governor Gina Raimondo  
State of Rhode Island



Governor Phil Scott  
State of Vermont



Governor Terence R. McAuliffe  
Commonwealth of Virginia